



# LENGTH MEASURE APPARATUS AND THE METHOD FOR MEASURING

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 1. Field of the Invention

5           The present invention relates to a length measure apparatus and the method for measuring, and more particularly to a length measure apparatus and the method for measuring that can overcome errors from the operator's vision and the measure apparatus.

### 2. Description of Related Art

10           A conventional profile projector in accordance with the prior art shown in Fig. 5 comprises a base member (81) and a worktable (82) mounted on the top of the base member (81). A project box (83) is mounted to the top of the worktable (82). A screen (84) is rotatably attached to the project box (83) and made of frosted glass. Multiple  
15       clamps (841) are mounted on the project box (83) around the screen (84) for securing a transparent film on the screen (84). A adjust knob (85) is rotatably mounted to the project box (83) for rotating the screen (84). A first adjust roller (86) is pivotally mounted to the worktable (82) for reciprocally moving the worktable (82) along an X-axis of the  
20       worktable (82) and a second adjust roller (87) is pivotally mounted to the worktable (82) for reciprocally moving the worktable (82) along a Y-axis of the worktable (82).

A light source (not shown) is mounted in the worktable (82) for

projecting the outline of the workpiece on the worktable (82) to the project box (83) and show on the screen (84). The transparent film has a standard line (88) printed thereon and used to contrast with the outline of the workpiece for measuring.

5           For example, to measure the length relative to the X-axis, a transparent film with a standard line (88) is clamped the screen (84) by using the multiple clamps (841) and the workpiece is put on the worktable of the profile projector. The operator rotates the first adjust roller (86) to make a first side of the workpiece flush with the standard  
10 line (88) and make the linear scale (not shown) in the worktable show zero. Next, the operator rotates the first adjust roller (86) again to make a second side of the workpiece flush with the standard line (88) and read the data from the linear scale relative to the X-axis of the workpiece.

15           However, the standard line (88) usually has a width about 0.3 mm for an easy operation. However, with reference to Fig. 6, the width will cause a certain error when aiming the profile (9) of the workpiece at the standard line (88), that is, the operator will be of the opinion that the profile of the workpiece is aimed at the standard line (88) when the  
20 profile of the workpiece moved within the width of the standard line (88). Consequently, different operator has a different result of measuring.

For example, to measure the angle of profile of the workpiece, a

transparent film with a standard line (88) is secured on the screen (84) by the multiple clamps (841). The operator adjusts the adjust knob (85) to rotate around the screen (84) and the rotating range of the screen (84) is measured by a rotary encoder (not shown) due to a series of scales  
5 on a periphery of the screen (84). The scales of the screen (84) are set zero when the standard line (88) flush with a datum of the profile of the workpiece after that the screen (84) is rotated again to make the standard line flush with another side of the profile of the workpiece and the operator can read the angle value of the profile of the workpiece by  
10 the series of scales on the periphery of the screen (84).

However, the width of the standard line will cause an error the same as the embodiment described above. Furthermore, the round screen (84) is made of frosted glass and has a certain error of the roundness of the screen (84). The error of the roundness of the screen  
15 (84) may influence the precision of the scales on the periphery of the screen (84). The errors of the roundness of the screen (84) and the scales on the periphery of the screen (84) are added up to influence the measure precision of the length measure apparatus.

The present invention has arisen to mitigate and/or obviate the  
20 disadvantages of the conventional length measure apparatus and the method for measuring.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The main objective of the present invention is to provide an

improved measure apparatus and the method for measuring that can overcome errors from the operator's vision and the measure apparatus.

To achieve the objective, the length measure apparatus and the method for measuring in accordance with the present invention

5 transform an image from a lens set into a digital contrast image via a central processing unit. The CPU has multiple standard lines that are previously set therein. Multiple movement controllers control a movement of a selected standard line from the CPU relative to the digital contrast image. A movement value is output when the selected

10 standard line flushes with a profile of the contrast image. The measure value is shown on a monitor when the CPU contrasts the movement of the selected standard line.

Further benefits and advantages of the present invention will become apparent after a careful reading of the detailed description with

15 appropriate reference to the accompanying drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a configured chart of the length measure apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front plan view of the length measure apparatus in

20 accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a flow chart of a length measure method of the length measure apparatus of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart of an angle measure method of the length

measure apparatus of the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a front plan view of a conventional profile projector in accordance with the prior art; and

Fig. 6 is schematic view of the conventional profile projector that operator differentiates the standard line and the outline of the workpiece is overlapped or not by his/her vision.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings and initially to Figs. 1-3, a length measure apparatus in accordance with the present invention comprises a base member (1) and a worktable (11) moveably mounted on the base member (1). An X-axis movement controller (12) is mounted to the worktable (11) for controlling the movement of the worktable (11) relative to the X-axis of the worktable (11) and a Y-axis movement controller (13) is mounted to the worktable (11) for controlling the movement of the worktable (11) relative to the Y-axis of the worktable (11).

A lens set (15) is mounted to the length measure apparatus and located above the worktable (11) for collecting the images of the workpiece that is put on the worktable (11). In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the lens set (15) is a CCD or a CMOS image collect module.

A central processing unit (CPU) (16, not shown) is received in the base member (1) and electrically connected to the lens set (15) for

executing a digital process to the image of the workpiece and forming a contrast image. Multiple digital standard lines are previously set in the CPU (16).

5 A monitor (17) is mounted on the length measure apparatus of the present invention and electrically connected to the CPU (16). The monitor (17) shows a corresponding one of the multiple standard lines of the CPU (16) and the contrast image of the workpiece. The monitor (17) further includes a display panel (171) for showing the measure result. In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the  
10 display panel (171) is mounted to the base member (1).

A rotary controller (14) is mounted on the base member (1) and electrically connected to the CPU (16). The rotary controller (14) is provided to circularly move the standard lines that are previously set in the CPU (16).

15 The measure method in accordance with the present invention comprises the following steps.

A. Forming a contrast image: the CPU (16) transforms the image from the lens set (15) into a digital contrast image that is shown on the monitor (17).

20 B. Selecting a suitable standard line: the CPU (16) selects a suitable standard line from the multiple standard lines that are previously set in the CPU (16) in accordance with the measure need and the selected standard line is shown on the monitor (17).

C. Adjusting the worktable: the X-axis movement controller (12) and the Y-axis movement controller (13) are respectively adjusted to make the worktable (11) being moved relative to the X-axis and the Y-axis of the worktable (11). The lens set (15) continually collects the  
5 image from the workpiece to make the contrast image moved relative to the selected standard line when the workpiece is moved due to a moving worktable.

D. Flushing the standard line with the profile of the contrast image: the CPU (16) detects and changes the color of the selected  
10 standard line and the flushed contrast image of the workpiece when the selected standard line flushes with a first side of the contrast image of the workpiece to make the operator clearly differentiate via the monitor (17).

E. Outputting the coordinate values of the X-axis and the  
15 Y-axis: the CPU (16) reads the values from the linear scales of the X-axis and the Y-axis and sets the two linear scales to be zero when the selected standard line flushes with the first side of the contrast image of the workpiece.

F. Contrasting the coordinate values of the X-axis and the  
20 Y-axis: repeating step D and E, the CPU (16) reads the values from the linear scales of the X-axis and the Y-axis again when the selected standard line flushes with a second side of the contrast image of the workpiece, and contrasts the values from the linear scales of the X-axis

and the Y-axis in step D, wherein the first side and the second side of the contrast are opposite to each other.

G. Outputting the measure value: the measure value is shown on the display panel (171) and recorded in the CPU (16) after the CPU  
5 (16) contrasting the values from the linear scales of the X-axis and the Y-axis in step D and F.

The measure method of the present invention uses the digital contrast image and the digital standard line to detect the profile of the workpiece flushing with the standard line, and the CPU (16) to process  
10 the digital contrast image and the digital standard line. Consequently, the measure method in accordance with the present invention can effectively reduce the error from the operator's vision and the measure apparatus and enhance the precision of measure.

With reference to Figs. 1-2 and 4, the length measure apparatus  
15 of the present invention can further measure an angle formed by two adjacent sides of the workpiece. The measure method of angle is similar to the above measure method for length and comprises the following steps.

A. Forming a contrast image: the CPU (16) transforms the  
20 image from the lens set (15) into a digital contrast image that is shown on the monitor (17).

B. Selecting a suitable standard line: the CPU (16) selects a suitable standard line from the multiple standard lines that are



previously set in the CPU (16) in accordance with the measure need and the selected standard line is shown on the monitor (17).

C. Adjusting the selected standard line: the selected standard line in the CPU (16) is circularly moved relative to the contrast image  
5 when operator adjusts the rotary controller (14).

D. Flushing the standard line with the profile of the contrast image: the CPU (16) detects and changes the color of the selected standard line and flushed contrast image of the workpiece when the selected standard line flushes with a first side of the contrast image of  
10 the workpiece to make the operator clearly differentiate via the monitor (17).

E. Outputting the rotary value of the selected standard line: the CPU (16) reads the rotary value of the selected standard line and sets the rotary value to be zero when the selected standard line flushes with  
15 the first side of the contrast image of the workpiece.

F. Contrasting the rotary value of the selected standard line: repeating step D and E, the CPU (16) reads the rotary value of the selected standard line again when the selected standard line flushes with a second side of the contrast image of the workpiece, and  
20 contrasts the rotary value in step D, wherein the first side and the second side of the workpiece form an angle.

G. Outputting the measure value: the measure value is shown on the display panel (171) and recorded in the CPU (16) after the CPU

(16) contrasting the rotary values in step D and F.

The measure method of the present invention uses the digital contrast image and the digital standard line to detect the profile of the workpiece flushing with the standard line, and the CPU (16) to process  
5 the digital contrast image and the digital standard line. Consequently, the measure method in accordance with the present invention can effectively reduce the error from the operator's vision and the measure apparatus and enhance the precision of measure.

Although the invention has been explained in relation to its  
10 preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that many other possible modifications and variations can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.